

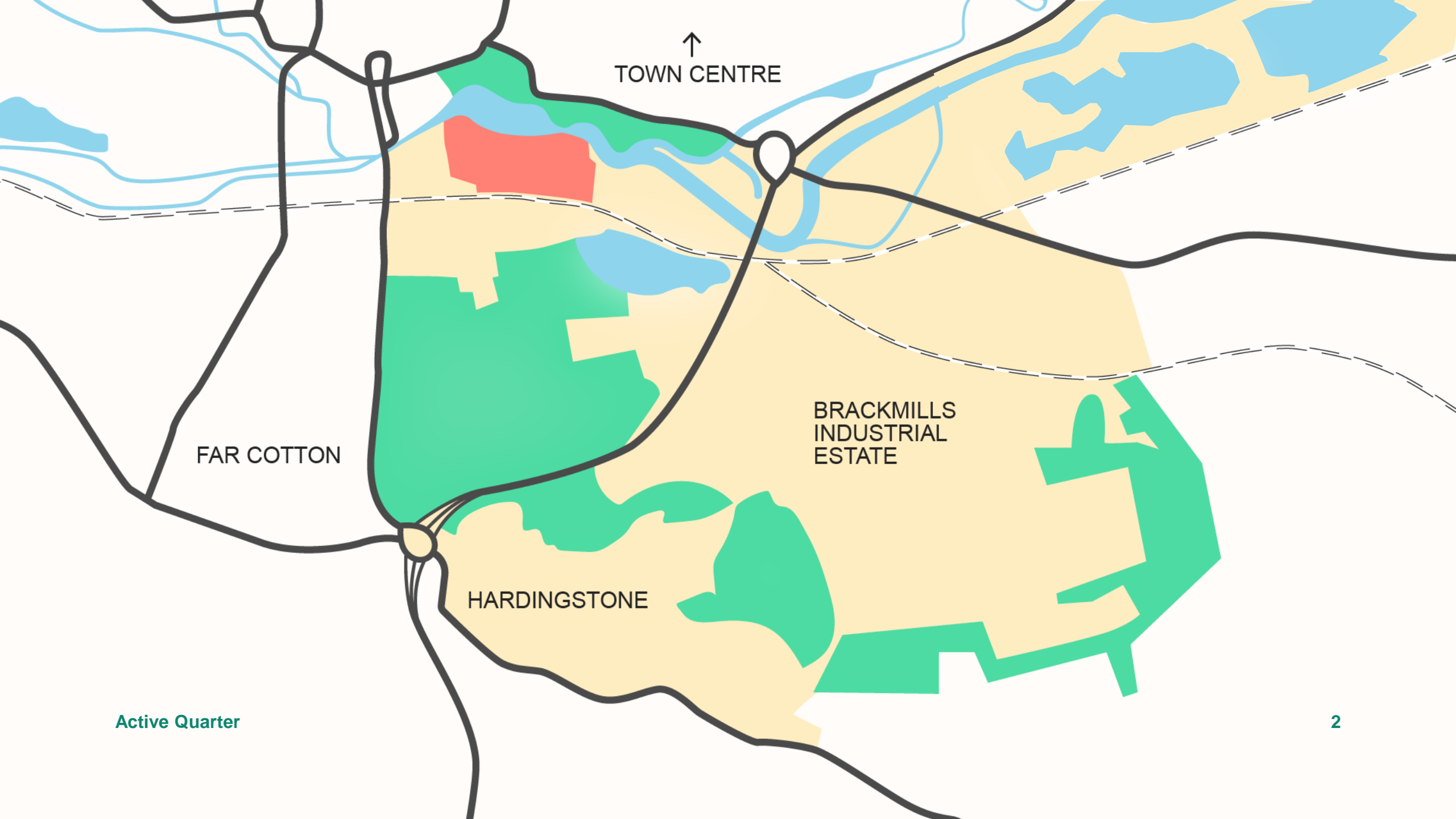


Northampton's
**Active
Quarter**

Overview

**Health and Wellbeing Board
28th September 2023**





↑
TOWN CENTRE

FAR COTTON

BRACKMILLS
INDUSTRIAL
ESTATE

HARDINGSTONE

Active Quarter

Vision

- ▶ By bringing together outdoor spaces in the Active Quarter, we hope to make it easier for everybody to enjoy being outdoors.
- ▶ Partner organisations can work together more easily – improving the quality and accessibility of these spaces.
- ▶ Through this project, we hope to improve opportunities for health, active travel, economic growth, education, and civic pride in Northamptonshire.

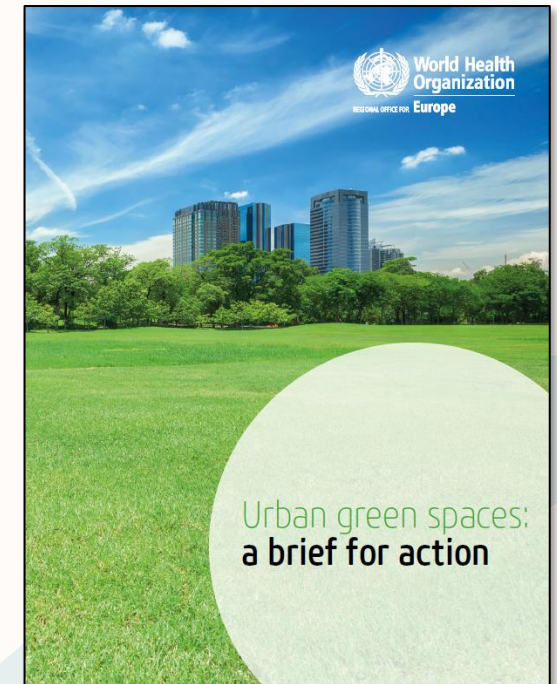


Policy Context

Consider local green (and blue) space to be critical assets for maintaining and supporting health and wellbeing in local communities.

Ensure that local policies and strategies are informed by evidence of need for sufficient access to greenspace.

Prioritise improving access to greenspace and creating greener communities especially in areas of deprivation or where there is poor or unequal access.



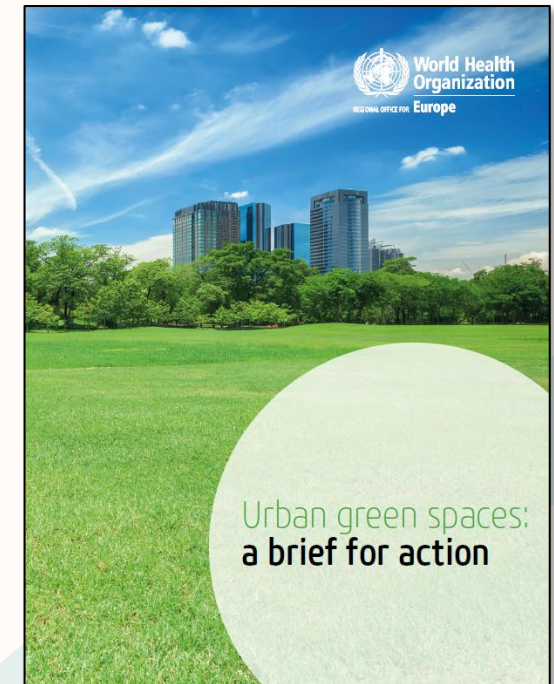
Policy Context

Urban green space must be considered as a part of the whole urban planning process and the wider green infrastructure network.

Urban green space interventions are most effective when a dual approach is used.

Planning and design of urban green space interventions should actively involve the local community and the intended end users.

Urban green spaces are most sustainable when they are supported and implemented by various sectors and stakeholders.



Policy Context

Natural England (2023) Green Infrastructure Framework provides a process journey for local authorities to follow.

The Active Quarter partnership uses this journey to guide strategically planning.

We are currently building community and elected member partnerships to ensure we have 'end-user' representation.

We will then co-develop a strategy for the Active Quarter, so decision-making is informed by community wants and needs.

Stage	Steps to take	Related GI Principles
1. Partnerships	Establish a lasting partnership approach with a diverse and inclusive set of stakeholders from the outset. To co-plan, develop and deliver a vision for green infrastructure in the area.	How 1: Partnerships and Vision
2. Vision Informed by Strategic Context	<p>Review:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The National Green Infrastructure Principles The current local, regional and national planning policy and planning practice guidance How green infrastructure fits into the local planning framework <p>Create:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A high-level vision for green infrastructure in the area. 	<p>How 1: Partnerships and Vision</p> <p>How 3 Plan Strategically</p>
3. Evidence	<p>Understand the existing green infrastructure network and needs by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assessing quality, quantity and connectivity of current green infrastructure assets. Analysing how green infrastructure is delivering benefits to meet needs and priorities including understanding what people want, and what is most important to them. Identifying gaps in provision, inequalities in distribution and opportunities for new or enhanced green infrastructure provision Noting the pressures and drivers of change <p>Identify priorities which green infrastructure could help address, which could be related to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Thriving nature and biodiversity gains Health and wellbeing benefits Supporting community prosperity and increasing community cohesion and pride Improving water management 	<p>How 2: Evidence</p>

Target Population – CORE20PLUS5

Core20:

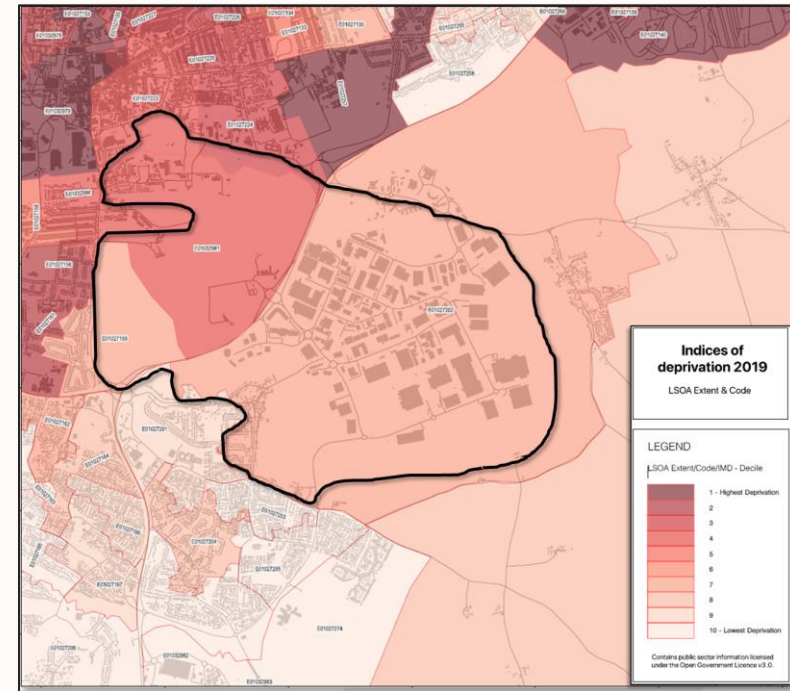
- Top 20% Most Deprived – IMD 2019

Inequalities identified in the literature:

- Minoritised Ethnic Groups
- Disability groups
- Women and girls

Northants Areas of Focus:

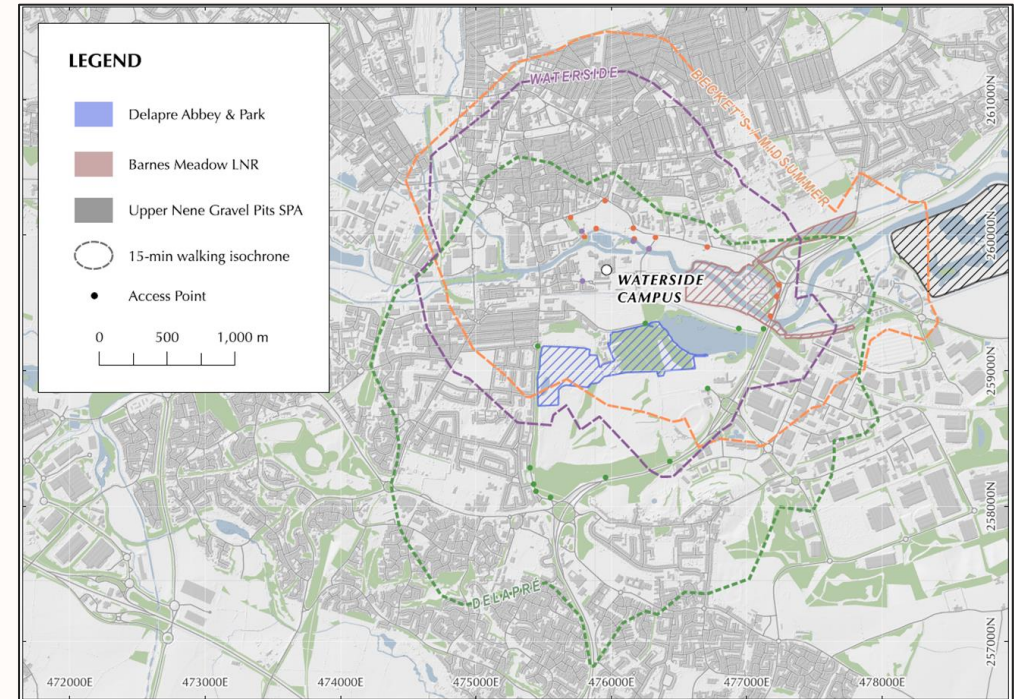
- Mental Health; Hypertension; Cancer; COPD; Maternity



Target Population - Distance

This graph displays which residents are within a 15-minute walk of the Active Quarter.

Using Natural England's (2023) Green Infrastructure Framework access standards.



Ambitions



Place

The core infrastructure within the area, such as: trails, tracks and rights of way; access roads/routes; cycling and walking; seating; use of the lakes; visibility; waymarking; bridges and access points.



Identity

The communication, marketing, information and messaging required to create an identity, perception, sense of civic pride and shape a place.



People

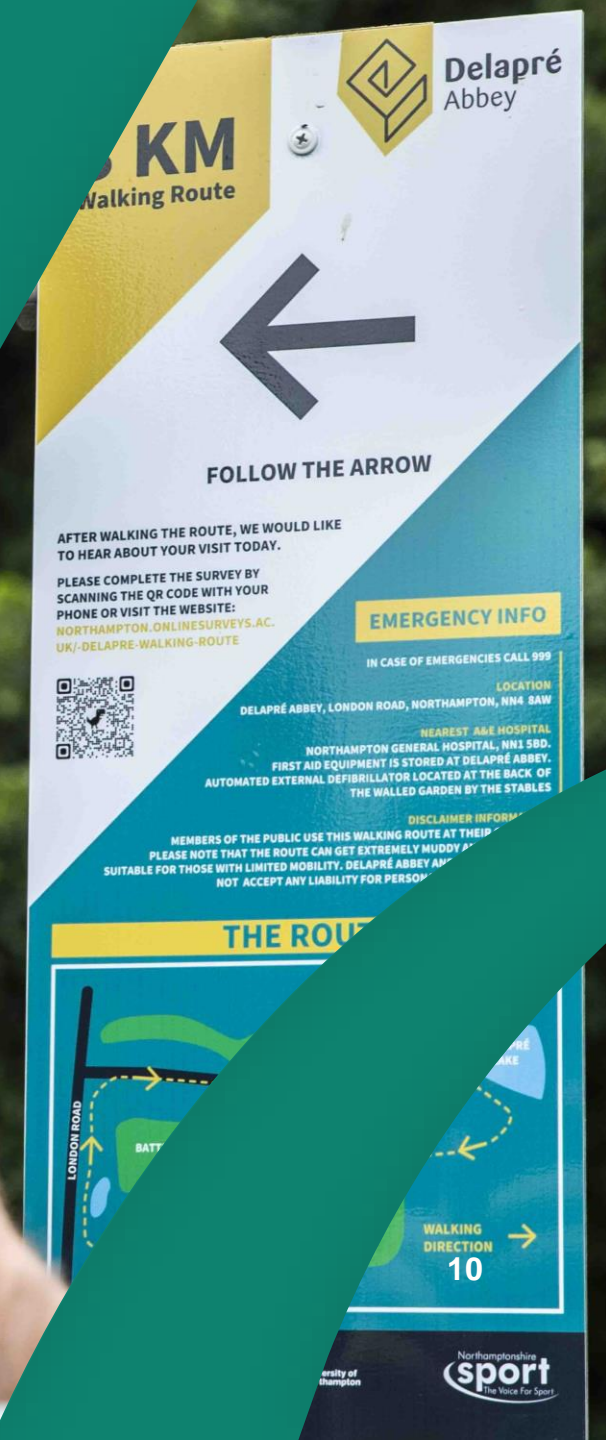
The way people use the place and engage in activities set up within the area.

Including organised, informal and special events, and regular community engagement.

Place

- ▶ Recently opened award-winning Northampton Bike Park.
- ▶ Waymarked Trail with 3km routes around Delapré Abbey and wider park.
- ▶ New outdoor table tennis tables on the University Waterside campus.
- ▶ Wheelchair accessible angling platforms around the water-skiing lake.
- ▶ Accessibility audit of Brackmills cycling and walking infrastructure.
- ▶ Government funding to improve footpath accessibility within Delapré Park.

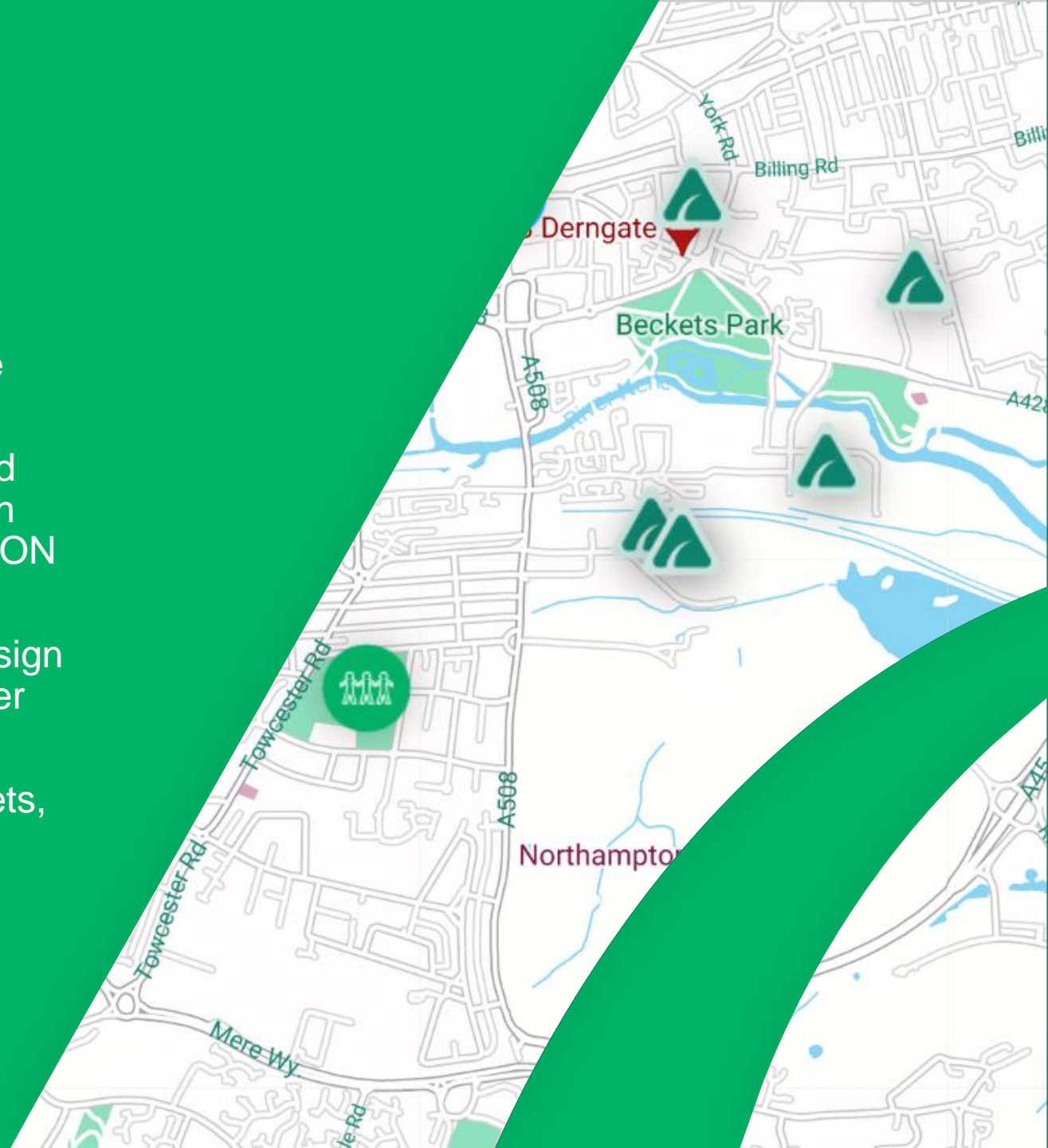
3km walking route around Delapré Abbey and the wider park →



Identity

- ▶ Informal Stakeholder Group formed to increase communication and co-ordinate efforts.
- ▶ An Emerging Talent Centre developing girls and women's football established in partnership with Northampton Town FC, Northampton FA and UON and hosted at Waterside.
- ▶ Pilot work in partnership with UON Graphic Design students in the design of possible Active Quarter logo, brand and digital assets.
- ▶ £5K funding to develop a website, comms assets, and a interactive map.

[Interactive map of the Active Quarter →](#)



People

- ▶ A co-produced 'Thriving Communities' Social Prescribing project in partnership with the General Practice Alliance one of 36 delivered in the country.
- ▶ Go-along interviews with park visitors to understand why they value these spaces for their health and wellbeing.
- ▶ Online consultation to develop an operational plan for a cycling and walking social prescription programme.
- ▶ Feeding back findings and actions with the local community to demonstrate how their voice is being used.

Updating residents at Far Cotton and Delapré community safety day →



Future Delivery

Redevelopment of Delapré Abbey 19th Century Stable Block into a Wellbeing Hub.

Deliver community engagement to provide added value to the council's place-based approach to tackling inequalities.

Work with Northamptonshire Community Foundation to establish an Active Quarter Fund that local groups can bid into to support local projects that promote activity, wellbeing and connecting communities.

Develop a suite of research that provides the AQ and partners with evidence base intelligence.

Align the Active Quarter with the emerging Integrated Care System, Health & Wellbeing Forums and Local Area Partnerships.

Align the Active Quarter with WNC strategic plans, such as: Sport and Leisure, Community Safety and Community Engagement, Regeneration, Economic Growth, Parks and Open Spaces, and Highways.



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